

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (previously presented) Method of recording information in units on a record carrier having a track for consecutively recording the information units at addressable locations, the information being represented in the track by series of marks of different runlengths between a minimum runlength and a maximum runlength and synchronizing patterns of marks, which patterns do not occur in the series of marks and comprise at least one long mark of at least the maximum runlength, said method comprising:
 - (a) encoding at least one information unit into a modulated signal comprising signal elements corresponding to said marks,
 - (b) scanning said track up to a link position before a selected one of said addressable locations, and
 - (c) recording the modulated signal from the link position, characterized in that
 - (d) the modulated signal is provided at the begin and/or at the end with a link signal element corresponding to a link mark of at most the minimum runlength.
 2. (previously presented) Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the link signal element corresponds to a mark shorter than the minimum runlength.
 3. (currently amended) Device for recording information in units on a record carrier ~~(11)~~ having a track ~~(9)~~ for consecutively recording the information units at addressable locations, the information being represented in the track ~~(9)~~ by series of marks of different runlengths between a minimum runlength and a maximum runlength and synchronizing patterns ~~(30)~~ of marks, which patterns

do not occur in the series of marks and comprise at least one long mark ~~(81)~~ of at least the maximum runlength, said device comprising encoding means ~~(28,29)~~ for encoding at least one information unit into a modulated signal comprising signal elements corresponding to said marks, and

recording means ~~(20,21,22,25)~~ for scanning said track up to a link position before a selected one of said addressable locations and recording the modulated signal from the link position, ~~characterized in that~~ the encoding means ~~(28,29)~~ are arranged for providing the modulated signal at the begin and/or at the end with a link signal element corresponding to a link mark ~~(84)~~ of at most the minimum runlength.

4. (currently amended) Device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said runlengths are expressed in steps of a channel bit, and the encoding means ~~(28,29)~~ are arranged for providing the link signal element corresponding to a link mark ~~(84)~~ one channel bit shorter than the minimum runlength.

5. (currently amended) Device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the encoding means comprise synchronizing means ~~(29)~~ for providing said at least one long mark ~~(81)~~ in the synchronizing pattern ~~(30)~~ at a runlength longer than the sum of the maximum runlength and the runlength of the link mark ~~(84)~~.

6. (currently amended) Device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the encoding means ~~(28,29)~~ comprise synchronizing means ~~(29)~~ for providing the synchronizing pattern ~~(30)~~ having said at least one long mark ~~(81)~~ followed by a short mark ~~(82)~~ of a runlength shorter than the maximum runlength, and the encoding means ~~(28,29)~~ are arranged for providing a second link signal element after the link

signal element at the begin of the modulated signal, the second link signal element corresponding to a mark ~~(85)~~ differing from the short mark ~~(82)~~.

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7. (currently amended) Device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the encoding means ~~(28, 29)~~ comprise means ~~(28)~~ for variably selecting one out of a set of fixed linking sequences that each start with the link signal element followed by further signal elements for recording marks up to ~~the~~ a first synchronizing pattern, substantially half of the linking sequences of the set having an odd number of mark boundaries.

8. (previously presented) Device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the linking sequences have a fixed length of 8 channel bits, and the set of fixed linking sequences comprises 10100000 and 10100100, or 10010000 and 10010010, each 1 indicating a mark boundary.

9. (currently amended) Device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the device comprises means ~~(27) for processing or compressing~~ digital or analog input signals ~~such as audio and/or video~~ into units of information.

10. (new) The device of claim 9, wherein the input signals are audio and/or video signals.

11. (new) Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the encoding means comprise synchronizing means for providing said at least one long mark in the synchronizing pattern at a runlength longer than the sum of the maximum runlength and the runlength of the link mark.

12. (new) A record carrier produced by the method of claim 1.

13. (new) A method comprising:

encoding an information unit;

forming a recording signal of signal elements, the recording signal containing: a linking signal element, a synchronizing pattern of signal elements, and the encoded information unit;

selecting an addressable location on the track of a record carrier;

scanning the track up to a link position before the selected addressable location, and

recording the recording signal as marks corresponding to the signal elements and starting at the link position, the marks having different run lengths, the marks representing the information unit having run lengths that vary from a minimum run length to a maximum runlength, the pattern of marks representing the synchronizing pattern not occurring in the marks representing the information unit and including a long mark of at least the maximum runlength, the mark representing the link signal element having a run length of at most the minimum runlength.

14. (new) A recording device comprising:

encoding means for encoding at least one information unit, and for variably selecting one out of a set of fixed linking sequences that each start with a link signal element followed by further signal elements, and for providing a recording signal of signal elements, the recording signal containing the selected linking sequence, a synchronizing pattern, and the encoded information unit: and

recording means for selecting an addressable location in the track of a record carrier, and for scanning said track up to a link position before the selected addressable location and for recording the recording signal starting at the link position, the marks having different run lengths, the marks representing the

information unit having run lengths that vary from a minimum run length to a maximum runlength, the pattern of marks representing the synchronizing pattern not occurring in the marks representing the information unit and including a long mark of at least the maximum runlength, the mark representing the link signal element having a run length of at most the minimum runlength.

15. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein:

the runlengths are expressed in steps of a channel bit, and the link signal element is one channel bit shorter than the minimum runlength;

the at least one long element in the synchronizing pattern has a runlength longer than the sum of the maximum runlength and the runlength of the link element;

in the synchronizing pattern the at least one long element is followed by a short element of a runlength shorter than the maximum runlength;

the recording signal includes a first link signal element at the beginning of the recording signal and a second link signal element immediately following the first link signal element, the second link signal element having a different runlength than the first link signal element;

the method further comprises variably selecting one out of a set of fixed linking sequences that each start with the link signal element followed by further signal elements, the further signal elements being immediately followed by a first synchronizing pattern, and substantially half of the linking sequences of the set having an odd number of element boundaries;

the linking sequences have a fixed length of 8 channel bits, and the set of fixed linking sequences including 10100000 and 10100100, or 10010000 and 10010010, each 1 indicating a element boundary; and

the method further comprises processing or compressing digital or analog input signals such as audio and/or video into units of information.

16. (new) A method comprising:

encoding an information unit;

variably selecting one out of a set of fixed linking sequences that each start with a link signal element followed by further signal elements;

forming a recording signal of signal elements, the recording signal containing: the selected linking sequence, a synchronizing pattern, and the encoded information unit;

selecting an addressable location on the track of a record carrier;

scanning the track up to a link position before the selected addressable location, and

recording the recording signal as marks corresponding to the signal elements and starting at the link position, the marks having different run lengths, the marks representing the information unit having run lengths that vary from a minimum run length to a maximum runlength, the pattern of marks representing the synchronizing pattern not occurring in the marks representing the information unit and including a long mark of at least the maximum runlength, the mark representing the link signal element having a run length of at most the minimum runlength, the linking sequences each have a fixed length of 8 channel bits, the set of fixed linking sequences being selected from: a first set including 10100000 and 10100100; and a second set including 10010000 and 10010010; wherein each 1 indicating a mark boundary and the number of 0's between 1's indicating the run length between mark boundaries.

17. (new) A recording device comprising:

encoding means for encoding at least one information unit, and for variably selecting one out of a set of fixed linking sequences that each start with a link signal element followed by further signal elements, and for providing a recording signal of signal elements, the recording signal containing the selected linking sequence, a synchronizing pattern, and the encoded information unit: and

recording means for selecting an addressable location in the track of a record carrier, and for scanning said track up to a link position before the selected addressable location and for recording the recording signal starting at the link position, the marks having different run lengths, the marks representing the information unit having run lengths that vary from a minimum run length to a maximum runlength, the pattern of marks representing the synchronizing pattern not occurring in the marks representing the information unit and including a long mark of at least the maximum runlength, the mark representing the link signal element having a run length of at most the minimum runlength, the linking sequences each have a fixed length of 8 channel bits, the set of fixed linking sequences being selected from: a first set including 10100000 and 10100100; and a second set including 10010000 and 10010010; wherein each 1 indicating a mark boundary and the number of 0's between 1's indicating the run length between mark boundaries.